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 thecollegian

WEDDINGGUIDE

A how-to on
“I do.”



Illustration by Kent Willmeth

Long-term planning, budgeting key to having happy wedding day

BY COURTNEY BURKE
THE COLLEGIAN

Though the average bride and groom are getting married at the

Because of these rising costs, many couples are turning to their families for help. Traditionally, the bride's parents pay for everything – from the engagement party to the venue, music, flowers, photography and more – while the groom's

and bridesmaids' gifts, and our honeymoon."

One popular go-to money saving technique engaged couples are embracing is the "do it yourself" wedding. Popular websites like Pinterest have made being thrifty and creative much easier. According to diynetwork.com, hundreds

things and I am always looking for a discount," Ashley Pihl, senior in hotel and restaurant management, said. "The good thing about my wedding being over a year away is I have the luxury of waiting for something to go on sale."

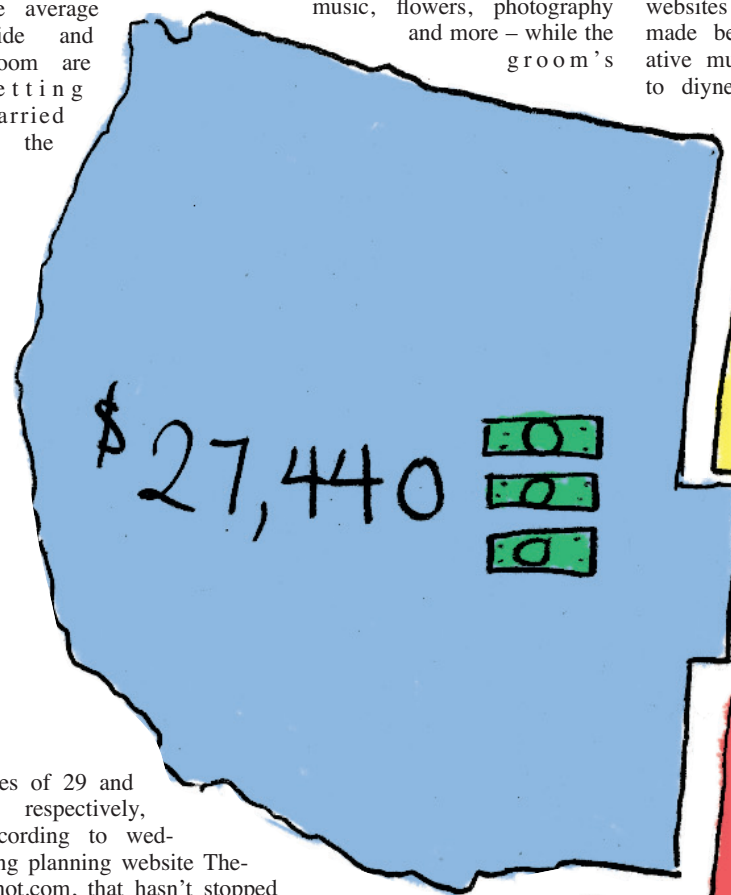
Pihl is getting married to Ben Eppenbach, senior in wildlife outdoor enterprise management,

is where she will be getting her flowers from, and her aunt and uncle are catering for her reception.

"Do everything ahead of time, it is never too early," Pihl said. "With our DJ, we booked two years out and it was a good thing because our wedding happens to be during prom season and we got 2014 prices instead of 2016. Same with our honeymoon; we are getting a great deal and we have a payment plan so we can go on a

deals and coupons on different services. All of these things can be very helpful if a couple has the time to wait.

"I think it's about looking at what is important to you on your wedding day," Betzold



ages of 29 and 31 respectively, according to wedding planning website TheKnot.com, that hasn't stopped some students from tying the knot. While many college students are going out to the bars and playing the dating game to find "the one," there are a small number of students saying "I do" to theirs.

However, planning a wedding while taking finals, tailgating at football games and preparing for graduation can get really complicated and expensive. TheKnot.com released wedding statistics for 2013, which stated that the average wedding cost is over \$29,000. Also in 2013, students saw average loan debt climb to just under \$30,000 per student, according to money.cnn.com.

parents pay for the license, officiant's fee, bar, rehearsal dinner and honeymoon.

Bride-to-be Maria Betzold, senior in mass communications, is currently setting a budget with her family and finding ways to cut down on these costs.

"We are following traditional paying responsibilities, which have the bride's parents paying for mostly everything," Betzold said. "My fiancé's parents are paying for the rehearsal dinner and tuxedos, while my fiancé and I are paying for wedding favors, groomsmen

of dollars can be saved on things like invitations, décor and favors.

However, the website advised that the three major things to avoid doing yourself are the food, flowers and photos. Unfortunately, these three things also tend to be the more expensive elements in a wedding.

"I am doing a lot of DIY

in April 2016 after a two-and-a-half year engagement. Longer engagement periods are also on the rise and are a very good way to keep costs down.

Pihl has found ways to save through her personal connections. She works in a floral shop in her hometown, which

super nice honeymoon."

Longer engagements give couples more time to shop around and wait for deals. Betzold found better prices on Black Friday, as well as sample sales and bridal shows throughout the year that have great

said. "I was able to keep the cost low by giving up some things that weren't as important to me, such as decorations. By doing that, we were able to spend more on things that meant more to us – such as my dress and food."

Other ways to prepare for the rising costs is to save up and pay for things all at once instead of using a credit card. Eppenbach said he waited and saved for two years before buying an engagement ring and proposing. By doing this, he could pay for the ring all at once and avoid interest rates and continuing to pay for the ring in addition to all the pre-wedding costs.

One advice that each of these students had in common was advising their engaged peers to plan ahead, stay organized and never forget to enjoy life with the person you are going to walk down the aisle with. Planning and budgeting for a wedding can be a stressful time, especially as a student. Remembering the important things is what has kept each of them going.

Average cost of weddings by region in 2013
Graphic by Iris LoCoco

Wedding trends for 2015 shift to outdoors while maintaining simplicity



SONIA KUMAR
THE COLLEGIAN

As 2014 comes to a close, wedding trends for 2015 fill the void. Pantone, the world authority on color, challenges us to lighten up with muted hues and even inspire those getting married with color ideas. This year Pantone cites, “En Plein Air,” as a theme which literally means outdoors in English. This outdoor theme brings a sense of etherealness inspiring brides and grooms to add an outdoor aspect to their wedding from possible food trucks and even take

minimalistic cool cues to create a relaxed environment for their special day.

Decor trends

Overall, the “En Plein Air” theme is focused on outdoors. For those who prefer the indoors, it’s possible to have an outdoor inspired wedding inside. Adding lots of flowers to your venue adds an outdoor sense. Think of Kim Kardashian-West’s past wedding and take it down five notches. A DIY flower wall would be a great backdrop for a Photo Booth.

Add earthy decor pieces like wooden vases or vintage pieces with a copper base. Homey pieces look great for this vibe and are affordable too. Lastly, lighting is extremely pivotal in setting the “En Plein Air” mood. Fairy lights and candles add a perfect touch for when it gets dark.

Bride dress trends

One prevalent theme of Spring 2015 wedding dress trends seen off the runway is the “off-the-shoulder.” Think Mariah Carey’s first wedding to Tommy Mottola but a little less 90s, and a more streamlined look.

Another interesting trend is moving away from the traditional white dress. Although this may seem bold at first, beautiful shades of mint, blue, beige, pink, grays and greens are very subdued and add a nice contrast to the norm.

If you, as a bride, are too afraid to take this step, consider



ILLUSTRATION BY SONIA KUMAR

putting your bridesmaid in one of these colors. Durga-Kali’s reversible bridesmaid dresses are a great option for something functional and those on a budget starting at \$225 on their website. Another big trend can really be seen in the details of the gown. Lace can be done in so many ways from a floral lace cape as seen at Alberta Ferretti to a subtle strapless sheath and neckline as seen at Carolina Herrera, and even lace collars as seen at Marchesa.

Groom trends

Although men don’t get as much attention, which they most definitely should when it comes to weddings, there are still ways

to shine. The prime way to do this is to accessorize, accessorize, accessorize. From head to toe there are ways to make your tuxedo or suit look a little more you and a little less stuffy.

First, boutonnieres seem to be on there way out with pocket squares filling the void. Pocket squares are great because they can cut down the cost on flowers and high school-like boutonnieres while adding color and texture. Next, suspenders and ditching the normal fat tie and opting for a fun printed skinny tie instantly make a wedding more hip and less stuffy. J-Crew offers hundreds of pocket squares and ties that you’ll be able to wear again.

Lastly, socks and shoes are a great, affordable and easy way to customize your groomsman. Happy Socks has many affordable cool pairs. Order custom Converse or Vans starting at \$65 per pair for you and your groomsman. Stick to styles like:

authentic, ERA, and slip-ons which have a classic look and neutral colors, but if you feel the need to have galaxy print somewhere on them try the back of the sneaks.

Overall, it’s possible to have a trendy and fun “outdoor” inspired wedding that doesn’t break the bank. Although these ideas are just starting points, try to make a typical aspect of a wedding unique whether it be a wedding dress or even ditching a pair of dress shoes for custom Vans. It’s your wedding, your day, plan it in a way that suits you.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.

Sonia Kumar is a sophomore in apparel marketing and textiles. Please send all comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.

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Settings, services for on-campus weddings available for students

BY LINDSEY STAAB
THE COLLEGIAN

Planning a wedding can be one of the most exhilarating and stressful times in a young couple's life. There is a desire to pick an ideal venue that will be able to accommodate the wedding duo's wishes, theme and guest list, which can prove to be difficult. Fortunately, there are locations and services available on campus for those who wish to incorporate their school pride into their special day.

All Faiths, Danforth

Danforth Chapel was built in 1949 and is a popular venue for weddings. The chapel features Gothic-styled architecture and stained glass windows imported from Czechoslovakia, England, France, Germany and Italy, and can host up to 65 people.

All Faiths Chapel was dedicated in 1956 to the memory of K-State family members who lost their lives serving in World War II and the Korean War. It features a 40-rank pipe organ and can seat nearly 500 people.

Brian, '91 alumnus in architecture, and his wife Kristia Poppe were married in Danforth Chapel on Jan. 14, 1992 and chose the location for its historical and emotional connections to the university.

"One of my architecture studios was in the top of Fairchild Hall, and when I would walk over there every day I would see Danforth Chapel," Brian said. "The constant exposure to it made the idea settle in the back of my mind that it would be an interesting place to get married one day, to have it be a part of my history and the common history between Kristia and I. I feel connected to the history of others that got married there, because it's like the coach (Snyder) says – it's all about family."

Brian suggests coordinating with a planner or some sort of helper to map out the big day.

"I don't know if it has changed, but my understanding was that Kristia didn't have anyone on campus that helped her handle the planning and facilitation of the service and reception," Brian said. "I would suggest checking that out, or you'll be on your own for figuring out every-



CASSANDRA NGUYEN | THE COLLEGIAN

Located in-between McCain Auditorium and Beach Art Museum, All Faiths Chapel is one place people can get married on K-State's campus.

thing."

K-State University Gardens

Friends of KSU Gardens are able to utilize the facilities and their scenic surroundings for weddings, small receptions and professional photography sessions. The gardens are open March through November with annual and perennial flower beds in the Cottage and Adaptive/Native Plant Gardens provide a brilliant display of color and the space allows for 350 seated guests and 50 standing or 250 seated at tables. Membership is required, as well as a date reservation fee and security deposit.

For those that aren't able or don't want to have their ceremony on campus, there are alternate ways to incorporate the K-State spirit.

"We (my fiancé and I) would have loved to get married on campus or somewhere around Manhattan to keep the Wildcat spirit," Natalie Schaeffer, senior in public relations, said. "However, due to an abundant amount of out of town people attending the wedding, travel accommodations and other factors would have made it difficult to do. So we took our engagement pictures around campus and the Manhattan community. We did the K-State Gardens, Anderson Hall and several

other buildings around campus and near Poyntz Avenue."

When it comes down to brass tacks, virtually any spot on campus could be used as a ceremony site, provided proper permission is obtained and space is available.

"I actually think that (having a wedding on campus) would be kind of cool," Kelsey Koblitz, senior in psychology and family studies, said. "I don't want a conventional wedding anyway, so I would totally consider it. I would love to have it in Hale Library since my boyfriend and I both love learning and are total nerds."

Willie the Wildcat

Another way to show your

K-State pride is to have Willie the Wildcat show up for your special day. Willie will attend your event (ceremony, reception or photo session) for \$100 per hour, plus travel costs for venues outside the Manhattan area, while the spring and fall semesters are in session. Simply contact the Cheer and Mascot Office to request Willie and cheerleaders (for another \$100 per hour).

Whether you're aiming to get hitched in front of Anderson Hall or just looking for a photo session with the K-State cheer squad, there are a multitude of ways to incorporate your purple pride into your wedding festivities.

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Students offer advice on how to make proposals memorable

BY SAGAN SCATES
THE COLLEGIAN

Whether you've been dating for five years or five months, asking the love-of-your-life to marry you can be rather intimidating. Do you go all out, or keep it simple? Do you create an intimate atmosphere or invite everyone you know? These are loaded questions that people everywhere tend to think about before they pop the question.

With so much stress to make proposals a special event, here are some do's and don'ts to follow, as told by recently engaged K-State students.

Don'ts of marriage proposals

1. Don't advertise it to the world

If you want to invite family members and friends, give them enough notice to attend. However, you need to be cautious that you aren't telling too many people.

"Don't just go around saying, 'Oh, by the way, I'm getting engaged,'" Joe Simon, senior in relational communication, said. "They could leak it on accident."

2. Don't casually ask

Retelling the story of your proposal is surely something you will have to do for many years to come. Create a memory that you are proud of and make sure that it is something you will both remember happening the same way.

3. Don't just wing it

A marriage proposal is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Put in some effort to make it special.

"Make it good, make it something significant for the two of you," Simon said.

4. Don't be prideful, ask for help

Sometimes, in order to pull off an engagement that will wow your partner, you have to ask for help from their friends or relatives.

Do's of marriage proposals

1. Listen to what they wants

Often people will tell you what they want without ever being asked.

"She's gonna tell you what she wants and what

she doesn't want," Chris Powell, senior in communications studies who recently proposed to his girlfriend, said. "I would have chosen to do something bigger with a lot of people around, because that's my personality. But, I knew that she would hate that."

2. Take time to be sentimental

Choosing to spend the rest of your life with someone is a big deal. Taking an extra moment to vocalize your desire to marry this person could mean the world to them.

"Don't just try to make it quick, take time to think about how you feel and why you want to get married," Lauren Stroud, Powell's fiancée and student at Manhattan Christian College, said.

3. Get video or photography of it

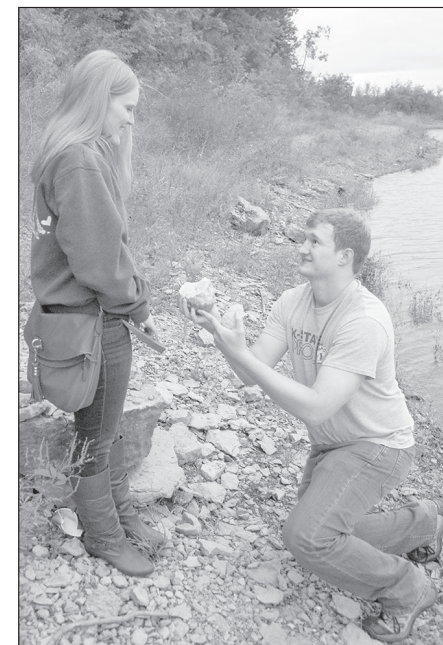
It doesn't have to be professional, but this is one moment you will want to capture. If you are proposing in front of friends and family, delegate that job to them.

4. Get the ring sized beforehand

This one can be kind of tricky, but it is definitely worth it. You will not regret getting the ring sized before you give it to your partner so they don't have to part with it shortly after they get it.

"You don't want her to have to send it away while everyone and their mom is asking to see her finger," Simon said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10,
"PROPOSALS"



HANNAH HUNSINGER | THE COLLEGIAN

Logan Kelly, graduate student in geology, proposes to his girlfriend of a two years, **Allison Lemke**, senior hospitality, at a small lake outside of Manhattan in September 2014. Kelly lured Lemke to the lake with the promise of a geode-hunting date, and surprised her with an engagement ring inside a real geode.

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10 things to keep in mind when hiring your wedding photographer



HANNAH HUNSINGER
THE COLLEGIAN

Once the cake is eaten and the flowers have turned to mulch, the only things keeping the memory of your wedding day evergreen are the pictures you take. Because of this, choosing the right photographer is important and should be a high-priority during wedding planning. After all, the quality of the photos is just as good as the skill behind the camera.

Consider their style

The first thing you should consider when choosing a wedding photographer is finding someone whose style matches your vision. Search online for wedding photographers in your area and check out their portfolios. Do they shoot mostly posed or candid? Do you like how they tone highlights in the images or the amount of contrast they use? Do they use natural or artificial light? If their work looks like what you want, it might be worth a call to get more information.

Go local

If you plan on having a destination wedding, it may be a good idea to hire a local photographer. They'll know the cool places to shoot group portraits of the wedding party and may also have experience shooting at your venue.

On the other hand, if you have a photographer back home that you love, ask if they are willing to travel with you to check out locations before the big event.

Discuss the details

Talk to your photographer about what kind of finished products they will deliver. How will they give you the images after post processing has been completed? Will he put together a slide show, photo book, or online gallery? Do you pay for prints, per image, or will they give you

a CD?

Second shooter

Many wedding photographers work with a second shooter. While the main photographer is focused on the obvious big moments (like the bride walking down the aisle, or the look on the groom's face during the first dance, for instance), the second shooter is free to cover less common angles and different moments (the mother of the bride's smile during the vows and your baby cousins eating the wedding cake). Having a second shooter helps give you a wider variety of photos and takes some of the stress off of your main photographer, which means they're able to relax and get the best images possible for you.

Recognize the expense

Just like anything else, the better quality you want the more expensive it's going to be. Be prepared to get what you pay for and know that the more you want (longer hours, more prints, extra portraits) the more it is going to cost. Your photographer will most likely be dedicating all or most of their day to your wedding and then many more days going through thousands of photos and individually editing them to make them their very best.

Don't edit

Don't ask to edit the images yourself as a way to lower the cost. Photography is an art just like painting or writing. You wouldn't ask a writer for their first draft. Editing is as much a part of the artistic process as all the work done out in the field. When a photographer takes a photo they are seeing more than what appears in the viewfinder, they're seeing the potential the photo has after it's been edited.

Remember, the photos aren't just for you. Your photographer wants to produce images they are proud of just as much as they want to produce images you'll love.

Communication is key

One of the most important things your photographer needs to know is the game plan for your wedding day. Before the big day comes, make sure you communicate with the photographer about

when and where things are going to happen. Make a list of the shots you definitely want, and print out a schedule of the day for your photographer to carry with them and invite them to the rehearsal. This way they know what to expect and it gives them the opportunity to plan ahead and even scout locations.

If something changes at the last minute on the day of, keep them informed so they can make the best pictures possible.

Outline 'Plan B'

Be sure to talk to your photographer ahead of time about what their plan is if they're sick the day of your wedding. Do they have someone they trust that can step in for them?

Photo etiquette

Do your photographer a favor and ask your guests to stow their cameras and phones during the ceremony (at the very least, if not all the big moments during the reception too). Nothing ruins the perfect bride-walking-down-the-aisle photo quite like 100 people leaning into the aisle with their phones to capture the moment for themselves. Your guests don't need to photograph you, that's what you paid the photographer for. Ask your guests to put their phones away and offer to provide prints to those who want them.

They're human too

Please don't forget that your photographer is a human too, and humans need to eat. Of all the people hired for your wedding day, the photographer is going to be there the longest. They'll be with you from the time you start getting ready in the morning until you leave the reception late at night. It'll be a lot harder for them to make beautiful photos if they're distracted the rumbling in their stomach and how delicious that salmon looks.

One kind of photographer is not going to be right for all weddings, you need to find one that matches your style and can best understand what you and your spouse-to-be wants.

Hannah Hunsinger is a senior in mass communications. Please send comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.

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Married students reflect back on their weddings

BY CAMERON McLAUGHLIN
THE COLLEGIAN

Being in college can be both the best and most stressful time in your life. Juggling schoolwork, extracurricular activities and job applications can become overwhelming and leave students feeling as if there is no time left over for anything else, including serious relationships.

However, for some student couples like Eddie and Sidney Vadbunker who wed June 21, marrying in college was the next logical step in their relationship and waiting was out of the question.

"Eddie and I met freshman year of college and the way we thought about it was that we are living in two different places, paying two different rents, buying two different gallons of milk; whereas, we could just be paying for it together," Sidney said. "It just made more sense to us financially."

The couple, both seniors studying engineering, said being married also allows them a chance to look for job opportunities together versus struggling to end up in the same location.

Stacey Ignowski, '14 alumna, and Kevin Ignowski, senior in construction science and management, agreed with the Vadbunkers and said being married young serves the benefit of making life decisions together.

"We had dated for four years, and we didn't feel like we had rushed anything," Stacey said. "I was going to find out in March whether or not I got into medical school and if I got in then I would start in July, and I didn't want to ever have to plan a wedding while going through medical school."

The Ignowskis, who got married June 6, said they knew getting married while still in college would better allow them to move together, and grow as a unit rather than as individuals.

Valerie Meyer, senior in graphic design, and Keith Meyer, senior in civil engineering, wed May 31, 2013. They too said they felt that marriage brought them closer as they began to make important post-graduation decisions.

"Being married young, we get to grow so much," Valerie said. "We aren't completely set in our ways yet and, in a way, this gives us a chance to learn and decide things together."

When reflecting back on the processes of their marriages, the couples all admitted that balancing school and the wedding planning process was difficult. Sidney said one of the biggest challenges for her was planning a wedding that would be located in Newton, Kansas while in Manhattan.

"I called my mom a lot, probably at least four times a week," Sidney said. "It was hard for me to be away from it all."

Sidney, much like the other brides, used a timeline to stay on track. Valerie, however, utilized her time during her holiday breaks to piece together the wedding details. She crafted during break to help save costs for their wedding decorations. Sidney had her family prepared the food for her wedding to help save funds for other means.

The Ignowskis also had to prioritize the things they valued the most, such as the guest list, as they prepared for their wedding. The couples all advised students who are considering marriage to have lots of conversations about values, morals and expectations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11,

"LOOKING BACK"



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Do-it-yourself weddings save couples money for what really matters most

By JAMIE TEIXEIRA
THE COLLEGIAN

It's no secret that weddings are expensive. According to WeddingStats.org, a wedding planning site, the average cost of a wedding in the U.S. for 2014 is \$28,671. Additionally, nearly 50 percent of all couples end up spending more on their wedding day than they originally budgeted for.

K-State alumni Tyler Hilburn and Michelle Busch-Hilburn tied the knot on Nov. 8. Being aware of the costs associated with the celebration, the couple enlisted family members and friends to save on several otherwise costly expenses.

"We really did everything you can think of ourselves," Busch-Hilburn said.

The couple, friends and family came together to make the wedding happen. A family friend got ordained to perform the ceremony, another did the photography and the bridal party created the decorations.

"We really saved a lot of money by using things we already had," Busch-Hilburn said.

Here are some ways you too can save money on your special day with these Do-it-yourself projects.

Bouquets for the bride, bridesmaids

According to Weddingstats.org, the average bridal bouquet costs \$108, Busch-Hilburn spent a total of \$380 on a total of six bouquets, including her own bridal bouquet and one to throw. Busch-Hilburn bought flowers individually for \$370, then decorated them herself.

"I bought ribbon and burlap for wrapping for \$10," Busch-Hilburn said.

In addition to making the bouquets, Busch-Hilburn's mom helped her arrange and tie the bouquets for the ceremony.

Busch-Hilburn saved hundreds of dollars on multiple bouquets by purchasing the flowers and creating her own design.

Decorations

For their decorations, the Busch-Hilburn wedding party worked on pumpkin centerpieces after the rehearsal dinner to keep them fresh for the following morning.

"(We spent) \$66" Busch-Hilburn said. "\$55 for the pumpkins, (they) were half price after Halloween, (and) I bought 25 and utensils for \$5."

Having the wedding party carve the pumpkins not only saved the couple money on various decorations, but also created time for friends together



Courtesy of DeAnn Presley

and allow those who did not know each other to meet.

Wedding invites, programs

Wedding invites can cost a lot. According to weddingstats.org, wedding invitations cost between \$381-\$441 on average. Busch-Hilburn found even higher demands for printing invitations and programs ranging up to \$600. The newlyweds worked together to create their own invites and programs.

"(We bought) a downloadable wedding invite template on Etsy for \$10," Busch-Hilburn said.

The invitations were printed for a few cents a page using her own design.

Busch-Hilburn also saved money designing the order of the ceremony herself and creating a program that matched the invites. The total paper and printing costs for the 120 invites and 50 programs was \$43.

DJ vs. playlist

Getting a DJ for the wedding can be one of the most expensive costs of a reception. The most expensive DJs, according to Weddingstats.org, cost an average of \$715- \$849. In most cases, the DJ plays about 16 to 17 songs an hour. Busch-Hilburn opted to replace the cost with a music playlist instead.

"(We) hooked up old speakers to Tyler's truck for (the) reception" Busch-Hilburn said. Their personal

playlist featured all of the couple's favorite songs.

Having a playlist of songs saved the couple up to \$715 instead of paying for a DJ who might not have played the songs they wanted. Buying songs on iTunes costs \$1.99 for the average song with older ones costing \$.99. Plus, the couple used songs they already owned.

In the end Tyler and Michelle Hilburn saved over \$15,000 with the help of their friends and family.

"Saving on the little things allowed me to an (expensive) dress, high-quality barbecue for the reception and plenty of wine and beer," Busch-Hilburn said. "(We also got) nice gifts for our family and wedding party."

By doing a lot of the wedding projects with help from friends and family, Busch-Hilburn was able to have the wedding she wanted without having to break the bank.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.

Jamie Teixeira is a senior in English. Please send all comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.

Courtesy of DeAnn Presley



How to pick out your wedding party

BY KATIE WATKINS
THE COLLEGIAN

Getting engaged creates a whirlwind of excitement, but after a few weeks of showing off your new ring the reality of planning for the big day slowly sets in. The first part of planning includes choosing your wedding party. Here are five things to consider when choosing a wedding party that can meet your needs:

1. Choose wisely

Choose supportive friends who you know are going to be reliable. Most importantly, pick friends who have been close to you and will remain close in the future.

"I wouldn't want to be showing my children wedding pictures 20 years from now and telling them I have no idea where any of those people are now," Anna Vander Hart, 2012 K-State alumna, said.

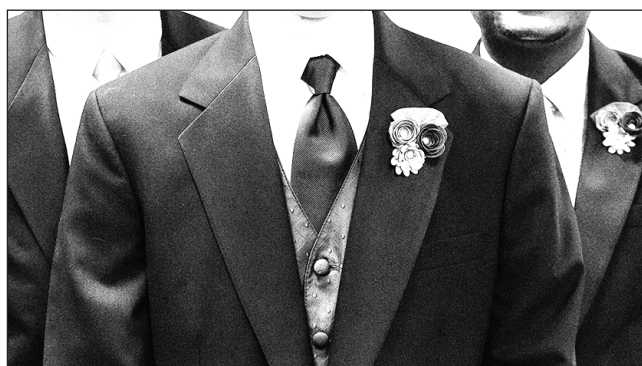
2. Set realistic expectations

Be honest and truly consider if your potential bridesmaid or groomsman can take on the huge responsibilities that go along with being a member of the wedding party.

Will they be able to attend the fittings and rehearsals? Also, what roles will the wedding party play? Will they help with mailing invitations; will they throw your bridal shower? Be sure that both you and your bridesmaids on clear on the expectations.

3. The more the merrier?

Once you know your wed-



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Choosing the members of one's wedding party is not a decision to be taken lightly. One should choose supportive, close friends with whom you will be in contact for years to come, and who can handle the responsibilities.

ding's budget, you can determine how big or small you want your party to be.

"It's nice to have all of those people standing up with you, but more people equal more conflicting schedules," Hannah Katzenmeier, senior in elementary education, said.

Corey Childs, a 2012 K-State alumnus, decided on a small number of groomsmen for his wedding.

"I chose my cousin to be my best man because we were in college together and I chose to only have three groomsmen because my fiancée and I wanted to include our closest friends that mean the most to us and our relationship," Childs said.

4. Don't feel obligated

If your roommate asks on a whim to be a bridesmaid, do not feel obligated to say yes. It may feel awkward at first, but it may be even more awkward when you two no longer speak a year from now.

"I know a lot of people feel pressure to pick certain people or worry about not including someone, but you should pick the people who you can't imagine getting married without and any other friends will understand," Vander Hart said.

5. Your Wedding, your way

Ultimately, you should remember that it's your wedding.

"Soak it all in," said Lauren Heim, wedding planner and owner of Lauren Heim Weddings in Manhattan. "Enjoy your engagement bliss as this time comes around once in a lifetime. Make sure to genuinely thank your wedding party and family for being involved as well."

Just remember as your wedding gets closer and the planning gets stressful, having close, supportive friends as your bridesmaids or groomsmen by your side every step of the way will make it all worth it.

Giving wedding gifts in a college world

BY LINDSEY STAAB
THE COLLEGIAN

Gift-giving in general can be a laborious, stressful process. Whether it's for a birthday or holidays, it's difficult to be completely sure that the gift you're giving will be a winner.

Buying gifts for a wedding is no less of a challenge, especially when you're going to be among a large group of other gift givers.

Before delving into department store bins or looking up every store the wedding couple is registered for, it is best to first reflect upon your relationship with the couple. Do you know

both individuals well or are you closer to one more than the other? Are these people your co-workers or old, school friends? Are you in the wedding party?

Answering these questions can help determine your level of intimacy with the couple, where

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"GIFTS"



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PROPOSALS | Loved ones want to celebrate your proposal with you

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

5. Celebrate

It's great to have an intimate moment between the two of you, if that is what fits your relationship, but make sure to celebrate the occasion with family and friends afterwards.

"Do something afterward to make it last a little bit longer," Jayme Miller, sophomore in pre-nursing, said. "We went out to ice cream with all of our family."

While proposals can require a lot of planning and sneaky surprises, the most important thing is that she says "yes." Don't be afraid to be original, your proposal is just that, yours.

The views and opinions ex-

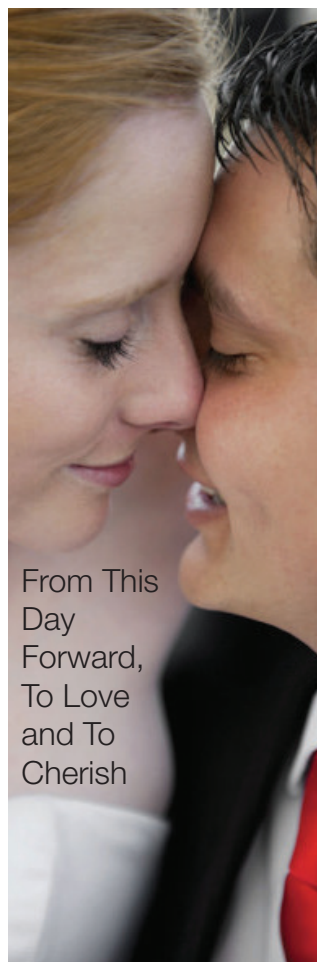
pressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.

Sagan Scates is a junior in mass communications. Please send all comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.



HANNAH HUNSINGER | THE COLLEGIAN

Given his love of geology, **Logan Kelly**, graduate student in geology, hid the ring in a real geode and planted it on the shore of a small lake outside of Manhattan, where his now fiancée **Allison Lemke**, senior hospitality, later discovered it.



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Wedding planning: processes of engaged couples

BY CAMERON McLAUGHLIN
THE COLLEGIAN

College students juggle school work, jobs, clubs and organizations on a daily basis. Toward the end of the semester, many find themselves starting to prepare for the future through internships and job interviews.

Some students, however,

are also preparing for marriage.

It isn't uncommon for couples to become engaged while still attending school. In fact, many students begin to think seriously about the future of their college relationships. For Julie Yankey, senior in marketing, and Corey Kingsland, senior in civil engineering, the thought of marriage is no longer just an idea but a reality. Kingsland proposed to Yankey last summer, before their senior

year began.

Kingsland and Yankey plan to wed on May 29, 2015, right after they both graduate. Having just an eight-month-long engagement, the couple has been using monthly schedules and deadlines to help them stay on track with their planning process.

"The process of planning has been good," Yankey said. "I got a lot done right before I moved back here to Manhattan,

because we're getting married back in Kansas City. It's definitely difficult to balance studies, work, sorority and planning a wedding because I'm not in the same town as the location."



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GIFTS | Registries are 'not obligations' for guests

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you fall on the gift scale and what expectations there might be.

Your own financial situation should also be taken into consideration. If you're a college student and expect many of those invited will also be in college or recently transitioned into a postgraduate position, it may be safe to assume that the couple has taken these things into consideration, thus alleviating any obligation to produce an overly lavish gift.

To registry or not to registry

There is an internal battle that many wedding gifters experience – to stick to the registry or to branch off and be creative. While registries leave out much of the guesswork, some people have the urge to deviate and present an item of sentimental value, perhaps a gift that reflects the unique relationship between

the giver and the couple. In these instances, the questions asked previously to identify that relationship will help you make that distinction.

"I think they (gift givers) should stick to the registry, but if they think they know the couple well enough, they can diverge into something fun or creative," Kelsey Koblitz, senior in psychology and family studies, said.

If you do choose to stick with the registry, it is important to keep in mind that not every item is set in stone.

"Registry items are merely suggestions, not obligations," Jodi R.R. Smith, owner of Mannersmith Etiquette Consulting, said in a Real Simple article.

A registry serves as a guideline for what the couple wants and needs. Reasonable deviations could be made if cost is an issue, just make sure what you intend to buy or make will fulfill the same requirements.

You're just not that close

There are going to be instances in life in which you get invited to a wedding and you barely know the couple or even one of them. Maybe you work with one and you got the courtesy invite or you're one of a hundred extended family members whose name they only know because they asked their Great Aunt Matilda.

Either way, don't worry in the slightest about going above and beyond for this wedding. Sticking to the lower-priced items in the registry is perfectly acceptable. Another option is to go with a nice card and a gift certificate to a store the couple is registered with.

Don't, however, give cash. It can be perceived as tacky and determining an amount to give can be uncomfortable. With a gift certificate, at least, you are intentional about where the money is going and show some awareness of their interests.

Bringing a gift or not

Some couples may request donations to charity in place of gifts, while still others may tell guests not to bring or give anything at all.

"I did not (bring a gift), but only because the groom asked us not to," Nick Scherrer, junior in economics, said. "He knew a lot of the guests would be of young age and didn't want anyone to feel guilty for not being able to afford anything."

Ultimately, the couple will be understanding of anything you decide to do, gift or not. What matters most is the intention behind it.

"I'd appreciate the idea of people bringing gifts and I'd expect my closest friends would do what they could in terms of wedding gifts," Felipe Ojeda, sophomore in open option, said. "But on a college budget, I wouldn't expect anything extravagant."

LOOKING BACK | Couples say to keep in mind that it's all for love

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

"Make sure you have good communication and talk about what you expect as far as the wedding goes," Stacey said. "That will make the wedding planning process easier."

When looking back at the overall event of their weddings, all of the couples said they were pleased with the end result of the events.

"Nothing ever goes as planned on a wedding day," Stacey said. "At one point my veil was ripped off of my head because it got caught to the rug, and right after our wedding it started to rain. Looking back at it though, I wouldn't change a thing."

Eddie said he wishes he would have better known just how much work actually went into a wedding before beginning the process.

"I would say from a guy's experience, I wish I would

have anticipated how much work we were going to do," Eddie said.

In the grander scheme, all three couples said they felt happy with their weddings, and even more so with their decisions to get married while still in school.

"I think that it is important that you remember why you are doing this," Stacey said. "It's not about the wedding day, but the relationship and the marriage."

The Ignowskis, the Vad-bunkers and the Meyers all left their wedding nights feeling satisfied and fulfilled, despite any minor details. As students ponder their relationships and begin planning weddings of their own, the couples said they hope that they will keep in mind the true reason behind their intentions: love.

"Now I get to be with my best friend all of the time," Eddie said.

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